

Message Text

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22

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 241632Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1587
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7070

EXDIS

DEPT FOR DRAPER,NEA/ARN, AND DIKEOS, SY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ATRN, ASEC, APER

SUBJECT: MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL BETWEEN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS

1. O'BRIEN HAS DEVELOPED FOLLOWING PLAN FOR PERSONNEL TRANSFERS. AT MOMENT WE PLAN FOR HUNT, WALSH AND DAVIS TO DEPART, WITH BAQUET AND HALLMAN COMING IN FROM DAMASCUS. IF DEPT APPROVES MY REQUEST FOR STAFF AUGMENTATION (SEE BEIRUT 6981), PROBABLE THAT GERRI O'BRIEN, LILLIAN WATERMAN AND ONE MSG (TO BE SELECTED) ACCOMPANY BAQUET. IF DEPT APPROVES, SY SHOULD INITIATE ACTION WITH FRANKFURT FOR SELECTION OF MSG TO ARRIVE DAMASCUS PRIOR DEPARTURE AUG 31.

2. RSO MET PLO SECURITY CONTACTS AUG 23 TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF SECURITY ESCORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PERSONNEL TRANSFER BEIRUT/DAMASCUS. PLO AGREED THAT TRANSFERS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY. DATE SELECTED FOR EXCHANGE IS TUESDAY, AUG 31. PLO ADVISED US THAT THEY WILL USE BEIRUT-ALEY-SOFAR ROUTE. ESCORT WILL ACCOMPANY OUTGOING PARTY AS FAR AS LAST FATAH CHECKPOINT JUST OUTSIDE OF BHAMDOUN ON SOFAR SIDE.

3. HUNT PARTY WILL DEPART CHANCERY AT 0600 WITH ESCORT. THEY WILL BE TRANSPORTED IN THREE EMBASSY PARTIALLY ARMORED CARS. THE CM ARMORED CHRYSLER WILL NOT RPT NOT BE USED. CARS WILL BE ARRANGED IN NORMAL MOVEMENT ORDER--LEAD CAR, CONFIDENTIAL

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PRINCIPAL CAR, FOLLOW CAR. LEAD CAR WILL CONTAIN DRIVER

AND BODYGUARD, PRINCIPAL CAR WILL CONTAIN HUNT PARTY, AND FOLLOW CAR WILL CONTAIN RSO AND DRIVER AND BODYGUARD. HUNT PARTY WILL PROCEED TO ESCORT DOP-OFF POINT JUST BEYOND BHAMDOUN. LEAD CAR WILL DROP OFF AT THIS POINT AND WAIT WITH ESCORT FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND BACKUP SUPPORT. PRINCIPAL CAR AND FOLLOW CAR WILL PROCEED TO MASNAA AND AWAIT BAQUET PARTY ON LEBANESE SIDE OF BORDER CHECKPOINT.

4. BAQUET PARTY SHOULD PLAN TO DEPART DAMASCUS AT 0600 IN ORDER RENDEVOUS WITH HUNT PARTY AT BORDER APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME. BAQUET PARTY WILL TRAVEL IN ONE OF BEIRUT'S ARMORED CARS PRESENTLY STAGED IN DAMASCUS. HUNT PARTY WILL TRAVEL TO DAMASCUS IN BEIRUT VEHICLE. AS RESULT, ONLY DRIVERS NEED BE SWITCHED AT RENDEZVOUS POINT.

5. DAMASCUS ESCORT IS REQUESTED TO PROCEED THROUGH SYRIAN CUSTOMS AND ACCOMPLISH CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION FORMALITIES FOR BAQUET PARTY. THIS WILL PERMIT BEIRUT ESCORT TO MEET THEM ON LEBANESE SIDE OF BORDER AND ENABLE PARTY TO PROCEED TO BEIRUT WITHOUT DELAY.

6. SHOULD BAQUET PARTY BE TOO LARGE TO BE ACCOMMODATED IN ONLY ONE ARMORED CAR, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT OVERFLOW BE PLACED IN A SECOND CAR. THESE INDIVIDUALS CAN THEN BE TRANSFERRED TO BEIRUT FOLLOW CAR AT RENDEZVOUS POINT.

7. UPON COMPLETION OF RENDEZVOUS RSO WILL ESCORT BAQUET PARTY BACK TO BEIRUT, PICKING UP PLO ESCORT AT BHAMDOUN. AFTER DEPARTURE OF BAQUET PARTY EN ROUTE BEIRUT, DAMASCUS ESCORT CAN THEN PROCESS HUNT PARTY THROUGH BORDER FORMALITIES AND PROCEED TO DAMASCUS.
HUNT

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